manufacturing with the aid of power, 50 or more workers, or for manufacturing without aid of the power, 100 or more workers, are working or were working on any day of the preceding 12 months. No case of manufacture of cigarettes in violation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to remove the above provisions of the Act to every unit including the tiny ones.

Report on Patent Laws

1634. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report submitted by Technical Expert Group on Patent Laws during December, 2006 had been withdrawn due to plagiarism in the report;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been initiated for fixing responsibility on plagiarism in the report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Chairman of the Technical Expert Group (TEG) on patent law issues, namely, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, requested the Government for approval to "withdraw the Report, re-examine it and resubmit a Report which meets with the requirements of the highest standards" The Government had agreed to allow the TEG to remove the "technical inaccuracies" in the Report.

Study on impact of anti-tobacco legislation

1635. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board has done any study of the impact of anti-tobacco legislation on the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of this study;

(c) what are the salient findings;

(d) in what way does Government propose to protect tobacco from a host of anti-tobacco laws and harassment; and

(e) the steps proposed to evolve a proactive policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The increased production of FCV tobacco and rising prices realized in tobacco auctions indicate that there is no real adverse impact or harassment of tobacco farmers. The Tobacco Board effectively regulates the production and sale of FCV tobacco to ensure that the farmers continue to get reasonable price for their product.